

ECUMENICAL PRESS SERVICE

Published under the auspices of the: World Council of Churches · International Missionary Council
World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations · World Young Women's Christian Association
World's Student Christian Federation · World Council of Christian Education · United Bible Societies

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No. 10/27th Year

11th March, 1960

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Churches Give \$2,000,000 For Refugee Aid

(Geneva) - More than \$2,000,000 has been given or is now expected towards the \$6,300,000 World Refugee Year programme of the World Council of Churches. This is an increase of about \$450,000 in the last three weeks.

All the money has been already allocated to new or ongoing projects.

World Refugee Year expenditure by the WCC is expected to total about \$9,500,000. This is made up by adding contracts worth about \$3,000,000 from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other organizations.

While projects may still be changed and funds re-allocated, the main international breakdown so far is:

Austria, \$249,165 allocated towards \$534,000 projects listed; Belgium, \$34,000 (\$150,000); China, \$294,000 (\$300,000); France, \$63,000 (\$418,760); Germany, \$35,000 (\$316,000).

Greece, \$155,600 (\$820,000); Italy, \$86,500 (\$260,000); Latin America, \$8,400 (\$225,000); Near and Middle East, \$316,400 (\$413,140); other projects, \$98,645 (\$260,000).

Burma, \$9,000 (towards a general refugee emergency appeal); Hong Kong, \$369,047 (\$385,000); India, \$42,400 (\$715,000); Indonesia, \$22,600 (\$15,000); North Africa, \$76,812 (\$225,000); and West Pakistan, \$195,450 (\$1,025,000).

Church support now actually listed to a total of \$2,056,130, for the World Council's programme comes from Sweden, Germany, the United Kingdom, Norway, Australia, the Netherlands and the United States.

The work the money will pay for includes a wide range of relief schemes, from the actual resettlement of displaced people and refugees - more than 220,500 have now been assisted by the WCC - to counselling, language lessons, homes for the aged and sick, and technical and medical help.

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A spokesman in Geneva, Switzerland, of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees, says: "The total of member-churches' contributions is now steadily climbing. The figures are encouraging." EPS, Geneva

1st Ecumenical Youth Assembly in Europe

(Geneva) - One of the largest and most representative meetings of European Christian youth ever held will take place this summer.

The event will be the first Ecumenical Youth Assembly in Europe scheduled July 13-24 at Lausanne, Switzerland. The 12-day meeting will be the first major gathering of European young people across denominational lines and national borders ever held under auspices of the churches.

Attending will be 1,400 youth from more than 15 European countries and approximately three hundred others from Asia, Africa, the Far East, the Middle East, North America and Latin America. The European group is expected to include delegations from the USSR and from several other Eastern European countries.

The Assembly will be sponsored by the Youth Department of the World Council of Churches in cooperation with national ecumenical youth councils in Europe.

In several important aspects it will be related on the youth level to the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held in New Delhi, India, November 18 to December 5, 1961. Its theme will be "Jesus Christ - the Light of the World", the same as that of the New Delhi Assembly, and its leaders have voiced the hope that it will be the means of fostering interest in the New Delhi meeting and of developing a concern of a new generation of European youth in the ecumenical movement.

Assembly highlights will include addresses by a number of outstanding leaders of the ecumenical movement. Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, World Council general secretary, will present the keynote address at the opening session Wednesday evening, July 13. He will share the platform with Bishop Jaan Kiivit, head of the Lutheran Church of Estonia, and with Professor Henri d'Espine, president of the Council of the Swiss Protestant Church Federation.

A major portion of Assembly time will be devoted to a study of three areas of the Church's work. These, which have been planned "to stimulate thinking and action in the light of the Christian faith on the issues which youth are facing today" are:

1. The European Churches in the World Situation Today.
2. The Task of the Churches in a Changing European Situation.
3. The Renewal, Mission and Unity of the Local Church.

Delegates will come from these countries: Iceland, Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France, East and West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, and Greece, and also from Russia and other Eastern European nations.

Asian countries represented will include: Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Ceylon, Japan and the Philippines. From the Middle East will be youth from the Lebanon.

From the continent of Africa will come youth from Egypt, Kenya, the Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Kamerun, Uganda and Angola.

From the Western Hemisphere will be youth from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Argentina and Brazil.

Also attending will be delegates from a number of international ecumenical youth bodies including the YWCA, the YMCA and the World's Student Christian Federation.

EPS, Geneva

A Roman Catholic For US President?

(New York) - A prominent US Protestant theologian has suggested that there may be a moral basis for the election of a Roman Catholic to the presidency of the United States.

Dean John C. Bennett of Union Theological Seminary, New York, in an editorial in the March 7 issue of Christianity and Crisis, a bi-weekly Christian journal, declares that a Catholic president well instructed in his Church's moral teaching "would have certain assets".

If he "is of an essentially liberal spirit he may absorb the best in the real humanism of Catholic thought," Dean Bennett writes. "A Catholic president might have a better perspective on the issue of social justice than many Protestants. He might be guided by the ethical inhibitions present in Catholic views of the just war so as to resist the temptation to make military necessity paramount in all matters of national strategy."

"He might have a wiser and more seasoned understanding of the claims of the person in relation to the community than many a one-sided Protestant individualist."

A note with the editorial states that it was printed to help "clear the air" insofar as general principles at stake are concerned, and "is not intended to indicate support for any candidate".

Dean Bennett's position is directly contrary to that put forward by most other US Protestant journals which have expressed an opinion on the issue. Recently Christianity Today, a non-denominational Protestant magazine, said it is "perfectly rational" for Protestants to oppose the election of a Roman Catholic for president because we believe "that the interests of the nation are safer in the hands of one who does not confess allegiance to a foreign earthly power".

The Lutheran, a publication of the United Lutheran Church in America, said that if a Roman Catholic were elected, the religious debate would "follow him into the White House" and he would "be subjected to restrictions imposed by the Church".

A leading contender for the Democratic nomination for US President is a Roman Catholic, Senator John F. Kennedy, of Mass.

EPS, Geneva

Petition Release of Pacifist

(New Haven) - A petition asking for the release of Dr. Willard Uphaus, 69-year old Christian pacifist, now serving a 12-month term of imprisonment for contempt of court, has been submitted to New Hampshire state officials by the Connecticut Council of Churches.

The council is the first state religious body to act on Dr. Uphaus' behalf, although many church groups, and individual Roman Catholic and Protestant ministers and rabbis have protested his commitment. Dr. Uphaus is a resident of Connecticut.

The petition asks for the release of Dr. Uphaus as "an act of clemency at the earliest possible date, either on bail or by dismissal of the complaint against him".

Dr. Uphaus was sent to jail by the New Hampshire Superior Court last December 14, for refusing to name guests at the World Fellowship Camp, Conway, N.H., of which he is executive director. The names were sought by the State's attorney general for use in his one-man investigation into "subversion". The contempt citation handed down in 1956 was upheld by the US Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision in June, 1958.

The Council's petition pointed to Dr. Uphaus' leadership in the Methodist Church and said it has "reason to believe that he is honest and conscientious in his religious faith as well as in his conviction against becoming an informer".

EPS, Geneva

Canadian Church Asks End of Capital Punishment

(Toronto) - Substitution of life imprisonment for capital punishment in Canada has been recommended by the Board of Evangelism and Social Service of the United Church of Canada.

A 16-man committee which has made a three-year study of the issue also recommended that a statutory life sentence for murder should be subject to all prevailing powers of remission and parole, with review every three years. The Board report noted "a growing acceptance of the fundamental truth that life is a divine gift that cannot innocently be destroyed by judicial process".

The statement coincided with the resumption of debate in the House of Commons in Ottawa on a bill to abolish capital punishment in Canada. Abolition of the death penalty "as soon as possible" was recommended by the United Church's General Council in 1956.

EPS, Geneva

Eastern European Methodists Doing Well, Bishop Reports

(Vienna) - There are good relations between state authorities and the Methodist churches in Eastern European countries and the governments do not interfere with the Church's activities, Bishop Ferdinand Sigg has reported in Vienna.

Bishop Sigg told the annual conference of the Austrian Methodist Church in Vienna that there are an "encouraging" number of candidates for the Methodist ministry in these countries and that Methodists in the West have had no difficulties in sending theological literature, medicines and other needed supplies to their churches there.

Bishop Sigg, who recently returned from a visit to Methodist churches in Eastern Europe, is in charge of the Geneva, Switzerland, diocese of the Methodist Church, an area which includes all of Europe and North Africa, with the exception of Scandinavia and Germany.

EPS, Geneva

Kamerun Church Issues Peace Appeal

(Yaoundé) - The Synod of the Evangelical Church of Kamerun, West Africa has appealed to Kamerun rebels to settle their grievances against the infant nation's government by peaceful means.

A statement issued by Synod headquarters in Yaoundé implores an end to the "killing, kidnapping and pillaging" and asks the rebels to make a clear statement to the government on the reforms required to bring peace to the country.



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At the same time, the statement calls upon the government not to enforce repressive measures which incite rebellion and urged it to take all steps required to bring about "peace based on justice and brotherhood".

The Synod reports that uprisings have been particularly severe in the Bami-léké area where several missionaries have been killed and mission outposts burned and pillaged. The church-operated hospital at Bangwa has been closed, and it has been necessary to transfer part of the work of the infant welfare centre at Bangwa-Banganté to Founban. Nearly all the primary schools in Bafousam have been closed and a large number of secondary school pupils have been transferred to schools in other areas.

The Synod statement was signed by the Rev. Paul Jocky, president of its executive committee and by the Church's regional synod presidents.

EPS, Geneva

More Church Aid for Earthquake Victims

(Geneva) - Cash gifts totalling \$43,100 plus hundreds of tents and thousands of pounds of blankets and clothing have been contributed by the churches around the world to aid victims of the Agadir earthquake.

Donations from churches in 11 countries are reported in response to a request made by the World Council of Churches' Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. In addition the WCC has allocated an additional \$10,000 to support relief work. It had earlier dispatched \$5,000 on March 3.

At the same time it issued a new appeal for contributions of wheat, sugar, milk, flour and soap.

Distribution of church-contributed goods is being supervised by Dr. Kurtis F. Naylor, director of the European programme of the Brethren Service Commission. Working at the scene of the disaster representing the WCC is the eleven-member international Eirene Team, a service organization of young Christian pacifists, sponsored by the Commission and the Mennonite Central Committee.

Dr. Naylor, who flew to Agadir the morning after the quake, reported to WCC relief officials on a two-day trip to Geneva last week, that on-the-scene surveys confirm earlier estimates of ten thousand dead and ten thousand injured. Total population of the city was believed to have been about 50,000 persons.

Dr. Naylor reported that the city itself has been completely evacuated and quarantined, and the more than 25,000 homeless survivors have been moved to primitive tent towns in the surrounding areas. He said the Moroccan government plans to set up schools, food centres, dispensaries and other programmes in the tent towns, but that additional contributions of material goods and money will be required from the churches and other groups.

Contributions reported thus far by the WCC and the Lutheran World Federation are:

Germany, \$12,000, 3,700 blankets, 300 four-person tents, clothing for 1,200 persons; Holland, \$3,000; Church World Service USA, \$3,000 and 2,000 blankets (from CWS stores in Italy); Lutheran World Federation, 10,000 lbs. of clothes; Japan CWS, \$500; Sweden, \$2,500 (from LWF) and \$2,000; British Council of Churches, \$14,000.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief, \$1,500; Norway, \$700; Denmark, \$1,500; France, \$1,000, 30.5 tons of chloride of lime, 10 litres of gresyl disinfectant (the lime and gresyl is a gift of the French government to CIMADE); Finland, \$1,400.

A telegram sent last week by Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, WCC general secretary, to Crown Prince Moulay Hassan, expressed the WCC's appreciation for the cooperation given to Dr. Naylor and the Team, and the opportunity for "practical expression of sympathy" for the "stricken people of Agadir". EPS, Geneva

East German Press Criticizes EKID Synod

(Berlin) - Sharp criticism has been levelled by the East German press against actions taken by the biennial meeting of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID). (See EPS No.9)

Neue Zeit, published by the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), declared the Synod had been "a complete failure in the religious sense" and that delegates had "shirked their responsibility to face the crucial questions confronting the German people and only succeeded in indulging in wordy rhetoric".

It quoted a statement by the CDU Central Committee which declares, "The work of the Synod forces all Protestants in the DDR (East Germany) to re-examine their political responsibility in the struggle against the dangerous policy of Bonn (the Federal Republic of West Germany) and to support the peace policy of the DDR."

An editorial in the Berliner Zeitung, an East Berlin daily, attacked EKID president Bishop Otto Dibelius for "advocating EKID support of the militaristic policy of the Bonn Government and giving his blessing to German militarism".

EPS, Geneva

Right of Asylum Supported

(Geneva) - Dr. Elfan Rees, permanent representative in Europe of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, spoke last week in support of a Declaration on the Rights of Asylum. He addressed a meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

However, Dr. Rees said, "a bad and inadequate declaration ... would be worse than no declaration at all".

He said a bad statement would be one which would fall below current standards of practice. He noted that nations are not willing formally to commit themselves to an action which could jeopardize national sovereignty, although frequently in practice they respond to the humanitarian needs of the situation. He cited particularly the field of asylum to refugees.

Dr. Rees strongly urged that without transgressing on national sovereignty, the United Nations "should encourage member states to act in a manner conducive to the enjoyment of asylum in a situation where it is legitimately sought".

The right of asylum has been defined as "the safety and wellbeing of those who have left their own or another country because of persecution or well-founded fear of persecution".

The Human Rights Commission has been charged by the UN General Assembly with the task of drafting a Declaration on the Rights of Asylum.

The CCIA is a joint agency of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council.

EPS, Geneva

US Church Controversy Continues

(New York) - National Council of Churches' leaders have turned down an invitation to testify before the House Un-American Activities Committee concerning alleged Communist infiltration in the churches as not being the proper forum in which to discuss the charges.

However, an NCC spokesman said, "Protestant church leaders would be happy to cooperate" with other government committees which would have such an investigation as their proper concern.

He said the issue at stake is "the constitutinality of the action of the Air Force in indoctrinating reservists on religious questions and there are other committees of the Congress which are charged with the oversight of government operations".

The statement was made following receipt of an invitation from Committee chairman Rep. Francis D. Walter, to the NCC to dispute the allegation of Communist influence in the churches published in an Air Force training manual. Now withdrawn, the manual charged that Communists have infiltrated both the churches and certain educational institutions. (See EPS Nos. 8 and 9)

Six NCC leaders had earlier sent a telegram to Rep. Walter demanding that he retract statements supporting the charges.

Dr. Edwin T. Dahlberg, NCC president, said the organization's leaders are "determined to follow through on all the issues that have been raised" and that "if necessary" they may carry the controversy to President Eisenhower. He affirmed that he would be "glad to cooperate with any agency of the government that is sincerely trying to get at the truth of the allegations".

Meanwhile last week there were several statements condemning the controversial pamphlet and supporting the National Council.

Those included:

A resolution adopted by the General Council of the United Presbyterian Church in the USA in which it sharply denounced the "false accusations of Communist influence" in the churches and demanded that the Air Force not reissue the charges "in any shape or manner".

The Council pledged the effort of the Church to aid "any inquiry which is sincerely trying to uncover and expose what appears to be an evil and sinister conspiracy to discredit Protestantism - and indeed, all religious institutions - in the United States".

A message sent by Archbishop Iakovos of New York, head of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, to Air Force Secretary Dudley C. Sharp declared: "The Greek Orthodox Church traditionally and unremittingly opposed to totalitarian tyranny and religious oppression wishes to reaffirm its faith in the National Council of Churches and its leaders as devotedly upholding the best democratic and religious ideals of the American way of life."

Archbishop Iakovos, who is one of the presidents of the World Council of Churches, said he made the statement not only as leader of one of the NCC's 34 member-churches, but also "on behalf of our highest ecclesiastical authority, His Holiness Athenagoras I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople", leader of Eastern Orthodoxy.

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

Churches in Great Britain have appealed to their members to pray for the success of the Ten-Power Commission on Disarmament which will resume its work in Geneva on March 15. The call was issued by the Church of England, the Church of Scotland, the Roman Catholic Church, the Free Churches and the Jewish community.

* *

Members of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA last year gave \$530,990 for various world relief and inter-church aid projects, an increase of \$14,569 over the previous year. During 1959 a total of 1,609 refugees entered the United States under the Church's auspices.

* *

The Rev. Lee Nam Kyu of Mokpo, Korea, has been elected chairman of the National Christian Council of Korea by its annual meeting in Seoul. Mr. Lee is a former member of the Korean National Assembly and governor of a Korean province. He succeeds Chang Oon Yong of the Salvation Army. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea, an affiliate of the United Church of Canada and the second largest (170,000 strong) branch of Korean Presbyterianism.

* *

Protestants in East and West Germany have raised 14,000,000 marks (about \$3,300,000) in the "Bread for the World" campaign to relieve hunger and distress throughout the world. The drive, launched last December, is being sponsored by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKID) and the German Evangelical Free Churches.

* *

Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, is scheduled to participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day Pilgrimage to Downpatrick and Armagh, Northern Ireland, on March 17. He will speak in the Anglican cathedrals of both places on the Saint's contribution to Christian civilisation.

* *

The popular Washington (D.C.) telecourses on the Bible are being televised outside the national capital area for the first time during the current semester. The 13 week series is being sponsored outside of Washington by the Virginia Council of Churches. In Washington it is sponsored by the National Capital Area Council of Churches. In the first semester this year 127 persons paid \$40 tuition to take the course for two hours credit at the American University in Washington. Another 13,000 paid \$5.00 apiece for the textbook and study guides. A recent survey showed 138,000 homes tuned to the programme.

* *

The Rev. Theodore O. Wedel, canon of the Washington (D.C.) Cathedral (Episcopal), will spend a year of research at the Ecumenical Institute, Evanston, Ill. His research project on the "mission of the church" will be financed by a \$20,000 grant to the Institute from the Danforth Foundation, St. Louis, Mo. The foundation will also finance a second research scholar, not yet selected, for a year's residence at the Institute.

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In Brief

One of the seven new Cardinals appointed by Pope John XXIII is the Most Rev. Laurian Rugambwa, Bishop of Rutabo, Tanganyika. He is the first Negro to be raised to membership in the Sacred College and at 47 is the youngest of the seven new Cardinals. The new cardinals will bring the number of Cardinals to a total of 85.

* *

Dr. Martin Niemöller, president of the Evangelical Church of Hessen-Nassau, is on a lecture tour of the United States. The German Church leader will visit New York, Chicago, St. Louis, Toledo and Philadelphia. He will return to Germany on 20 April.

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Bishop Lajos Veto has resumed his work in the Lutheran Church in Hungary after a long illness, according to reports from Budapest.

* *

Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, who resigned last November as Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church, has been nominated by Pope John XXIII as a member of the Congregation. The Cardinal had served as its Secretary for 23 years. (See EPS No. 46, 1959)

* *

A Special ReportCoordination of January Prayer Weeks Urged

(Geneva) - Problems arising for parishes from the proximity of the Week of Prayer sponsored by the World's Evangelical Alliance (first full week of January) and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (January 18-25) were discussed at a special consultation held here. The following statement was issued by the consultation:

"We rejoice in the continued growth of a world-wide call to prayer which is evidenced in the observance of the Week of Prayer of the Evangelical Alliance and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in the opening weeks of every New Year. We recognize also that the rapidly widening observance of both these weeks creates tensions of loyalty and purpose both within the same parish and even more often between groups of parishes. Indeed each week is in danger of damaging, quite unintentionally, the work of the other. We would welcome a common mind among those responsible for the organization of these two important occasions. This would enable the content of their suggestions for prayer each year to present a complementary pattern which would enhance the value of both."

The four-day consultation was attended by members of seven different confessions including Protestants, Roman Catholics and Orthodox. It was held at the Ecumenical Institute of the World Council of Churches at Bossey near Geneva under the joint auspices of the Institute and the WCC's Department of Faith and Order.

